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Federal election called for Sept. 20

MIKE BAKER

Editor

There will be at least three horses in the proverbial race here in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock (HKLB) after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau this past weekend made a request to immediately dissolve government and hold a federal election on Sept. 20.

We know that incumbent Jamie Schmale will stand for the Conservatives, aiming to secure a third successive term as the riding's MP, while Judi Forbes will represent the Liberals. Forbes stood for election in 2019, receiving 17,067 votes which was good enough for 26 per cent of the local vote. Schmale secured the win two years ago after receiving 32,257 votes (49.1 per cent).

The Echo also learned on Monday (Aug. 16) that the Green Party will have a name on the ballot here in HKLB on voting day. The local association was planning to hold a nomination meeting on Aug. 24, where local members would vote to select a candidate. With just five

see ELECTION page 5



A resounding Radiothon

The 15th annual Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Radiothon was a resounding success, with the community coming together to raise \$32,613 as of 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13. Rick Lowes, on-air personality at MooseFM, is pictured giving a big thumbs up alongside Lisa Tompkins, HHHSF executive director, during last week's event. A final fundraised total will be announced by the foundation this week. All money raised will go towards purchasing new equipment at the Haliburton and Minden hospitals. /MIKE BAKER Staff

Local Legion set for facelift, accessibility upgrades on the horizon

MIKE BAKER

Editor

Executive members of the Haliburton Legion are celebrating a "big win" for the community, after scoring \$100,000 in fed-

eral funding to help pay for some much-needed accessibility upgrades at the Mountain St. facility.

During a short ceremony on Monday morning (Aug. 16), Legion president Don Pitman was joined by Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale, who took in a tour of the build-

ing.

Pitman explained that the money would be used to fund the installation of an accessible washroom, accessible powered doors throughout the facility, and some new windows and lighting. Around \$45,000 will be set aside to help pay for see LEGION page 2

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Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale, left, was on hand at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton on Monday (Aug. 16) as Legion president Don Pitman, right, announced the organization had received \$100,000 in federal funding to help pay for accessibility upgrades at the building. /MIKE BAKER Staff

Legion executive looking to turn local facility into a 'community hub'

from page 1

the redevelopment of the main foyer area, which will include the installation of an elevator.

"This is fantastic news not just for the Legion, but for the community as a whole," Schmale told the *Echo*. "People come to the Legion for a variety of reasons, and I know there are big plans for this facility moving forward. This is the first step of many as the group here aims to improve the Legion and continue to make it a place that people want to be going forward, not just for veterans but for the general public too."

Pitman was all smiles after learning that his grant application, which he submitted last year and was originally turned down, had been approved. He said the upgrades, which must be completed within a two year window, were long overdue and would hugely benefit the elderly veterans and community members who typically frequent the Legion.

"We have so many seniors that really can't move around the building freely the way they should be able to, that's why the elevator, really, is the most needed piece of this project," Pitman said.

The total cost for the elevator is around \$100,000. Having allocated just under half of that amount - \$45,000 - to the project, Pitman says the facility will be looking to the community to pitch in to help get it over the line.

With that in mind, Maureen Cook, chair of the Legion's 'Ways and Means' committee recently launched a new community fundraising campaign - 'Give Us a Lift'.

"I think it's time, this is something we just need to do," Cook told the *Echo*, stating the Legion has been

set a deadline of 2025 by the federal government to be "totally" accessibility compliant.

"This is what our community needs. We need to revitalize our Legion and use it," Cook said. "This is a big thing for safety too. The steps that lead downstairs are not easily navigated. They're not at all easy to get down, they are quite steep."

Donations can be made directly by e-transfer to rcl129@outlook.com, by cheque sent to the Haliburton Legion at PO Box 129, 719 Mountain Street, or by stopping by the Legion building and handing over cash.

Cook noted that if each of the Legion's 403 members gave \$100, they would be close to achieving their goal. It was noted too that anyone who donates \$500 or more will have their name included on a plaque that will be installed inside the elevator once the project is completed.

First steps for the project, Pitman says, will be to hire an architect and have them take a look at how the building will need to be reconfigured to allow the necessary room for an elevator and accessible washroom. From there, he will have to go through various drawings and plans before going out to quote. He expects this planning stage will take approximately two months.

Pitman hopes to be able to hire local when it comes time for construction, noting it's always a positive to keep money in the community where possible.

With some decorative work already underway, and different groups starting to reconvene at the facility, Pitman reveals he has "big plans" for the Legion in Haliburton.

"We're really trying to turn this building into a community hub. It's a great facility for weddings, functions and whatnot - it's a great place for people to come together," Pitman said. "We're hoping that we can draw on different things - the fact we're the only place in town with pool tables, we have bingo just starting up again... I'm really just trying to get the executive team to see this as a real engine for get togethers for the community."

He added, "A big part of that is accessibility, and making sure people can move about freely. I have to be honest, we're lagging behind badly on that right now, but it's been a financial issue for us. We're really fortunate that the government was able to send us what they did, and that'll help us move forward and turn this facility into what we want it to be."



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Record year for Highland Yard, raises \$32,500 for housing projects

MIKE BAKER

Editor

In the face of the continuation of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a drastic reduction in the number of participants and an enforced move away from a live, in-person event to more of a virtual one, the annual Highland Yard fundraiser enjoyed a record-breaking year in 2021.

The event has been running, in some form, for 50 years in Haliburton County. It offers a wide-range of options to potential participants, encouraging walkers, runners, and cyclists to complete circuits that range from two kilometres in length right up to 10 kilometres. The idea is that those who register also raise money – all of which goes to a good cause, says Jack Russell, one of Highland Yard's primary organizers.

"The money all goes to Places for People... who in turn take that money and put it towards housing projects across the county," Russell said.

Places for People have been the main beneficiary of Highland Yard since 2012. The organization is committed to providing affordable housing options to people in our community. Currently, Places for People owns and operates seven residences across Haliburton County and has plans for a large scale multi-unit development on Wallings Road in Haliburton.

Since 2010, the organization has housed 19 families, including 30 adults and 54 children.

This year's Highland Yard, which allowed participants to race "where they want, when they want and how they want," raised \$32,500. That takes the 10-year total to more than \$170,000 since Places for People got involved.

"It has certainly been a record-breaking year, which is quite remarkable considering everything that is going on today with the pandemic," Russell said. "There were some remarkable contributions – one person raised nearly \$7,500 on his own, and we had a couple others who raised \$4,000. There are a lot of committed people who participate in this every year, which is really nice because all of the money raised goes right back to helping others in our community."

The story behind the launch of Highland Yard, back in 1971, is an interesting one, as Russell explains.

"It all came together over a bet between a couple of campers, each who thought they could run faster than the other, so they put money on who could go from [Camp Onondaga] to the Rockcliffe in Minden the fastest," Russell said. "The event has continued on with the inspiration of a few different people over the years, who thought this was a great idea and just kept going with it."

While primarily a fundraiser, Highland Yard has also become a popular stomping ground for competitive racers in recent years, who will try to set record times over the various distance offerings.

Typically, when hosting a live race, Highland Yard will attract hundreds of participants. The event has become leaner since the onset of the pandemic, at least in terms of the number of people involved, with 78 participating in 2020, and 73 registering this year.

On top of supporting the seven residences Places for People currently owns, and the planned Wallings Road development, Russell said the money raised through this year's event will help the organization bankroll a pair of "different" projects.

"Places for People, combined with the Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton Housing Corporation and Stanworth Non-Profit Housing, is putting together a research study, where they plan to ask tenants living in Minden how they can help make their lives better. That's one of the different projects we have on the go," Russell said. "The other, which is kind of on the back burner, is our sleeping in your car event, which was put on hold because of COVID. I think the intent is that's going to pick up again this fall. That's a pretty relevant piece, as it highlights homelessness in this area."

Just because we don't see individuals sitting along Highland Street in Haliburton, or Water Street in Minden doesn't mean homelessness doesn't exist, Russell said. He noted there was evidence to suggest there are dozens of people in our community sleeping in their cars, or couch surfing from friend to friend because they don't have anywhere permanent to go.

That's why Highland Yard is so important, because the money raised goes right back into affordable housing in Haliburton County, preventing people from getting to the point of homelessness.

More than just the money though, the event also boasts a key educational component.

"It's more than just fundraising, Highland Yard is helping people become aware of the need for affordable housing. There's an educational piece, too," Russell said. "The intent is not education – the event is intended to



The Rumley family were among the 73 participants in this year's Highland Yard fundraising event. The family participated in 5k and 2k runs on July 31, and celebrated afterwards at the River Cone in Minden. / Submitted

provide opportunity for serious runners to try and beat their personal best and run 10 kilometres faster than the wind. But there's an opportunity for the community to

learn about the need for affordable housing, and I think that's why we continue doing it."



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Community food banks hit hard, rebounded through pandemic

GRACE OBORNE

Staff Reporter

COVID-19 has, unsurprisingly, detrimentally impacted food banks in the community over the past 17 months.

Though food banks have been hit hard, they've recently been able to bounce back.

At the start of the pandemic, staff and volunteers working for food banks were unprepared for the unknowns at the time, but needed to make sure their essential business stayed open for those who were in need.

"At the time, I was the only administrative staff and I was only working one day a week on administrative things.

When everything started to unravel with COVID-19, we were really struggling to keep up with the health regulations ever changing. We needed to stay on top of that, to keep our staff safe, to keep our volunteers safe, to give our clients a base level of support, and never shut down. We are an essential service from the beginning and continue to be delivering services and enhanced services throughout, and so we really needed to quickly rethink how we were doing things," said Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network, which operates the Cardiff and Wilberforce food banks.

Last summer, at the height of the pandemic, many people who needed income support applied for, and received employment insurance and government

funds, through programs such as CERB.

This resulted in a decrease in monthly clients for food banks.

"COVID-19 has definitely affected the number of client visits to [our] food bank. One would think the numbers would be higher when in fact, due to government funds [given] to them, client visits have ranged from 70 to 80 per cent of the regular visits," said Joanne Barnes, manager of Minden Community Food Centre.

It was a similar story here in Haliburton.

"During the first month, we saw a huge increase in clients, but after the first month, those clients didn't come back. It is most likely because they were receiving CERB," said Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank manager, Judy MacDuff.

Jackson says she's experienced the same thing out in Highlands East.

"We've actually seen a bit of a dip in demand this year. I keep asking my volunteers if they're doing all of their data entry, because I actually have slowed down. My guess is that that's possibly related to continued access to EI," said Jackson.

Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, statistics and reports show the difference in demand from now to the pre-pandemic years.

"I was looking at our numbers for 2019, and the report showed that we had a 12 per cent increase in the number of people that were accessing our food banks, and we were already kind of seeing an increase pre-COVID. At that time, we had 394, unique people between our two food banks in Cardiff and Wilberforce. In 2020, we saw an 18 per cent increase in

“

We've actually seen a bit of a dip in demand this year. I keep asking my volunteers if they're doing all of their data entry.

— Tina Jackson

the number of people accessing services through our food bank. So that shows, over the two years, that there was a significant increase. It speaks to the impact of the rising costs of living. And then layered on top of that, the impact of the pandemic," said Jackson.

The pandemic has encouraged people to donate more, specifically to food banks.

"I cannot underscore how appreciative we were for funding through the social service relief fund. That was provincial money that flowed through our municipality, which allowed us the ability for a six month period to increase staffing so that we could just keep going. That was just basically to keep our head above water," said Jackson.

"The donations have been phenomenal this year, so financially, we're in a good place. We got a lot of emergency hampers through Food Banks Canada, which was government money given to Food Banks

see DEMAND page 10



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Election campaign to run just 36 days, shortest since 1900

from page 1

weeks until voting day, however, it was decided that a candidate would need to be in place before then.

Karen Hillis, an executive with the HKLB Green Party association, said the national executive would be bypassing the usual nomination steps to simply select a candidate for the riding. Angel Godsoe and Mark Wilson were both approved nominees for the party. One will be selected to stand for the Greens as early as Tuesday morning (Aug. 17).

It is not yet clear who will stand for the NDPs in HKLB, with the local association not responding to requests for comment as of press time on Monday evening.

Canada's 44th federal election will be unprecedented in the sense that the campaign will be the shortest in recent memory, lasting just 36 days – the minimum length permitted by law. Only three election campaigns were shorter – in 1874, 1891 and 1900.

Criticized by leaders of all of Canada's major parties – Conservative, NDP, Green and Bloc – Trudeau said now was the right time to call an election, giving Canadians the chance to decide who will lead the country out of the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In this pivotal, consequential moment, who wouldn't want a say? Who wouldn't want their chance to help decide where our country goes from here?" Trudeau said on Sunday morning.

Back in 2019, the Liberals secured 155 seats in the House of Commons, giving them a minority government. At the time of dissolution, the Conservatives had 119 sitting members, the Bloc had 32, NDP had 24, and the Green Party held two seats. A further five seats were held by independents. A report published by the CBC on Sunday stated that the Liberals hold a lead in public polling, with enough of a margin that, should it translate to actual results on voting day, would give them a majority government.

Conservative response

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Schmale was not in favour of an early election. The call comes less than half way through the current term, sending voters back to the polls for the second time in 23 months.

"I don't think many people wanted an election. The people I'm talking to, you know, they're really stressed out because of COVID. They're still trying to figure out what's going on, whether they have kids in school, how they're going to manage their jobs. I think an election was the last thing on people's minds," Schmale said.

Speaking to the *Echo* on Monday, Schmale said Trudeau should be more focused on resolving the major crisis that is unfolding in Afghanistan, where the Taliban, a terrorist organization, has seemingly taken control of the country after storming the presidential palace in Kabul over the weekend.

He feels that, by calling an election and dissolving government, Trudeau has basically abandoned

the many Afghan nationals who supported Canada and its troops over a 12-year period during the country's involvement in the War on Terror.

"The parliament in the UK recalled their legislators, recalled their lawmakers to deal with this situation and we have just dissolved ours. The Prime Minister should be in a situation room dealing with this, and speeding up bureaucracy... to make sure these people are taken care of," Schmale said. "They put their lives on the line for us, and we've just walked away, which is absolutely shameful."

As he prepares for a shortened campaign, Schmale said he expects to field questions relating to the economy, the growing federal deficit – which he says, based on current projections, won't balance out until 2070 – and mental health when talking to constituents.

Liberal candidate believes 'time is right'

Having been acclaimed as the Liberal candidate in HKLB just a few weeks ago, Judi Forbes is preparing for her second federal election.

Speaking to the *Echo*, she said she was "delighted" an early election has been called, as it gives voters the opportunity to voice their opinions and let government officials know how they feel they've fared during a near year-and-a-half long pandemic.

"I think it's the right move. It's time for a clear mandate from the Canadian people to say 'yes, Justin Trudeau and the Liberals have done an exceptional job getting us through this pandemic, and we trust them to continue to protect us with safeguards... and help create an even better Canada,'" Forbes said.

Forbes said she was encouraged to run again after witnessing the struggles of so many people in our riding throughout the pandemic.

She acknowledges it will be a tough task to displace a Conservative juggernaut that has recorded six straight victories in the local riding – dating back to its formation in 2004.

"This is a tough riding, there's no getting away from that. Certainly, folks here have voted in Conservatives more often than not, but that's changing. If you look at the numbers, there are more and more progressive thinking people in this riding. More and more with every election – the people who vote Liberal, Green or NDP. Recently, as a group, our collective votes have outpaced the Conservatives," Forbes said.

Touching on issues such as climate change, women's rights, better care for seniors and a universal basic income, Forbes said she's excited to present her platform to local voters over the coming weeks.

Greens aiming to win

With a local candidate set to be in place by the end of the week, the Green Party is hoping to spring a shock in HKLB come Sept. 20. Hillis said the regional executive were in this race "to win" when speaking

with the *Echo* on Monday.

"If you're going into a contest like this, you have to have the mindset that you're in it to win it, and you have to do everything possible to work towards that outcome," Hillis said. "If it doesn't happen, that's when you can sit back and evaluate the results and see what was gained. But winning has to be the focus right now – that's what the next five weeks is going to be about for us."

Tom Regina, another member of the local executive, said

that while most expected an early election to be called, everyone that isn't a member of the Liberal Party has been put at a disadvantage due to the exceptionally short campaign.

Hillis believes the timing of the announcement was "self-serving" for Trudeau and the Liberal Party, and puts everybody else behind the eight ball.

"For us, it's a little frustrating. I don't think this is an election that anybody wanted, and it has not been well received by the rest of the country," Hillis said. "For us here in HKLB, it's

extra frustrating because we wanted to have the opportunity to introduce our nominees to our membership, and give them the opportunity to listen and select who they believe to be the best candidate. It would have been very interesting to see our candidates debate against one another, but unfortunately we're not going to get that opportunity."

The federal election will take place on Sept. 20. The *Echo* will feature each of the candidates in a series of stories in next week's issue.



Horsing around

Eight-year-old Andrew Blair works with his mother Lindsay Lawrence handle Flapjack, a miniature appaloosa horse during the Pony Trekking offering at the Abbey Gardens on Friday, Aug. 6. The trekking program is led by pony trainer Lesley English, who works with groups to learn about the Ojibwe horses during a guided hike where participants and horses work together. Also, volunteers are always needed to work with the ponies. See abbeygardens.ca for more information. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir



by Darren Lum

Welcome to silly season

WELL, THE NATION'S worst kept secret is finally out... Canada is heading to the polls once again.

Less than half way through the current term, and Justin Trudeau has officially called time on Parliament, dissolving government and ushering in Canada's 44th federal election.

The timing of it, while not at all unexpected, just feels off to me. I'm sure our Prime Minister has had all manner of analysts whispering in his ear, telling him now, with the Liberals perhaps currying favour with the general public for the way they have assisted people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, was the perfect time to call a vote and attempt to secure a majority government.

All of that aside, given that we are still dealing with the aftermath of the first three waves of the pandemic, and potentially facing a fourth wave over the fall, the last thing on most people's minds is an election.

By now, I've covered a few of these during my time as a journalist. One thing I've learned is there are three types of people during an election.

First, you have the enthusiasts – the people who are excited to get out and help their favourite candidate in any way that they can. Next, you have the people who hold a low to moderate interest – perhaps they'll agree to put a sign up on their lawn as a way to get off the phone, or away from their front door, with someone from the first category. They will turn up on voting day, simply because they've always done it. And because they've decided it isn't worth the verbal, or maybe even physical, scolding they'd get from their dad if he ever found out they didn't carry out their civic duty.



*mike
baker*

Editorial

Then, finally, there are the people who just don't care. You would be surprised just how many people make up this final group – voter turnout in 2019 was 67 per cent. Meaning a third of the country decided it wasn't worth their time to vote.

I suspect that number will grow, and not in a positive sense, following this year's election.

Speaking to you as a journalist, I'm excited there's an election. Politics is kinda my thing, so doing all the behind the scenes research and analysis, catching up with the different candidates and being there, in the thick of the action on voting day... Ahh, I enjoy all of that, I say with a smile on my face. However, putting on a different hat and speaking to you as an everyday person, I can totally see why this news would be frustrating. After everything we've been through over the past 17 months, the last thing we want to do

now that the weather is nice, and things have finally calmed down enough for us to have plans, and have some fun, is spend time considering what suit is going to represent us on occasion in Ottawa.

It's said that this election is going to cost in the region of \$610 million. Quite a sum for a five week spell. Especially when the thing we're doing is completely unnecessary. Oh, and did I mention that this is coming at a time when the national deficit, according to BDO Canada, is slated to be \$154.7 billion in 2021/22.

I can think of many, many better ways to spend that money. Health care? Affordable housing? Free jet skis for one and all?

Once again, welcome to silly season ladies and gentlemen.

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My coach made a difference

WHERE WERE you when Damien Warner won the gold medal in the Decathlon at the Tokyo Olympics?

I was on a sea kayaking trip in Georgian Bay with a group of women. I'm not going to lie, we checked our phones each day to get updates. We sat on a rock out in Georgian Bay and cheered and sang 'Oh Canada' when Andre DeGrasse won the gold in the men's 200 metre run. We heard snippets of the women's soccer game as we paddled up the Key River on the last day of our trip. It was all just so exciting. And so inspiring.

The Olympics gave us lots to talk about on the trip. I happened to be paddling with Corry Ziorjen, who moved to Minden as a young person and attended Haliburton Highlands High School. Corry told us many stories about her experience at Hal High.

She spoke highly of Dave Mowat and the environmental leadership course she took. She talked at length about Tom Regina and the music program that she loved, and she had so much appreciation and gratitude for Kit Pizzey, who taught her physical education and coached her on several teams.

I also walk my dog on a regular basis at East Bay on Drag Lake. Multiple times I have had the pleasure to walk with Marla McNaull, who is one of the athletes selected for the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame. Several times while we have walked, Marla has talked about the great

coaching that she got, also from Kit Pizzey and how that impacted her high school career.

Kit coached, taught and inspired a lot of students in her years at Hal High. Both Corry and Marla went on to become high school phys ed teachers.

Damien Warner has four coaches who worked with him to prepare for the Olympics. Two of the coaches were from his high school days in London, Ontario. One coach was his English teacher, and one was his physical education teacher. I listened to several interviews with these coaches and they talked about recognizing Damien's talent in high school and coaching him then, and sticking with him all these years as he trained for the Olympics. Damien is 31 years old now, so those coaches have supported him for more than 10 years.

I love this story about Damien because it is such a good reminder about the power of a coach and a teacher in the lives of our kids. Every coach makes a difference!

As we paddled our boats around the islands in Georgian Bay, we all shared stories of teachers who have inspired us, believed in us, encouraged us and supported us. It all helped us become who we are in the world today.

Fall will soon be upon us and schools will begin again. And teachers will continue to do their good work. For them, I am thankful.

Green meadow



*lynda
shadbolt*

points of view

Smart thinking

ONE OF THE great tragedies in these cynical times is that it is getting harder and harder to fake being smart. For instance, you can no longer just go on social media and proclaim that you are a genius. No, these days you actually have to spell it correctly too.

This is problematic for people like me.

I will admit, I also find this a bit sad.

You see, I grew up in a far simpler time, when, if you studied hard and held your nose to the grindstone, it was fairly easy to fake being smart. Unless, of course, you actually held your nose to the grindstone, in which case all bets were off.

Back then, it didn't hurt to carry a book and open it every now and again in public places too.

This caused people to notice you and say things like, "Wouldn't it be easier to read that book if it was right side up?"

To which you would reply, "I'm an advanced reader."

And this would add to the myth of your brilliance.

But, as I said, these days it is not so easy.

Nevertheless, there is a way.

The key, in my estimation, to appearing smart is twofold. Don't take tests and surround yourself with people who are gullible. Admittedly, for some of us, the second part is not all that easy.

It's not like we are in the US and have Trump or My Pillow rallies we can meet people at.

That's why, in Canada the best

way to fake being smart is to be a man (or woman) of very few words.

I have discovered that the less words I utter in public the smarter people think I am. Along those lines, I have also discovered that, if you have to speak in public, and by that I mean in groups of more than you and your dog, it is best to avoid phrases like, "Never mind what the experts say, I'll tell you what I think," or "Every website I go to has proven the earth is flat" or "Bill Gates is listening to us right now."

These things definitely make it harder to create a façade of smartness.

On the other hand, if you just look at every person you meet in the eyes, listen and nod in agreement every few seconds, they'll think you are a thoughtful old genius. That's because there has never been a person in the history of mankind who thinks the person who enthusiastically agrees with them is not very smart.

Right now, you might be wondering why it is so important to fake being smart?

Well, some of the most important people in our society have risen to their lofty positions there by excelling at this.

But mostly, it just feels good not to have to explain every stupid little thing you say. Let's face it, we all say things that come across as fairly ridiculous. But if you have laid a solid foundation of fake smartness, people will not question your unintelligent remarks on the spot but will rather think that someone of your vast fake intelligence could not possibly say something that dumb – and therefore, right after the conversation is over will make an immediate appointment to get their ears candled. And there is some satisfaction in knowing this.

Heck, if you think about it, it's injenious.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

A photo taken from a regatta on Haliburton Lake in 1979. /Photo by Bill Fry.

letters to the editor

Mandatory vaccination for students

To the Editor,

With the looming presence of a fourth wave of the pandemic and beginning of the school year approaching, the issue of whether a policy making COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for all eligible students, staff, and visitors who enter public schools is a topic of much discussion within our school communities.

As the representative of Ontario's 31 English Public School Boards and 10 School Authorities, with their 1.3 million students, I am writing to request that your government act as quickly as possible to implement a policy and strategy to make vaccination mandatory in our schools.

We support the growing number of medical professionals and public health experts calling for such a policy in the education sector. As I'm sure you'll agree, ensuring that we provide the safest

possible environment for our students, staff, and school communities is a top priority for all of us. Swift and decisive action must be taken to ensure that our schools remain as safe as possible, and that we have the greatest chance of keeping our schools open for in-person learning, which is vital to the mental health and development of our students.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association and our member boards stand ready to work with the Ministry of Education, Public Health officials, Education sector stakeholders, and our school communities to ensure that the implementation of such a policy occurs as smoothly as possible.

Cathy Abraham
President, Ontario Public School
Boards' Association

Collective effort for vaccination is needed

To the Editor,

I'm sure there are many people in a real quandary out there with all this vaccination information. On the one hand we have scientists, immunologists, epidemiologists, provincial and federal health ministers, Health Canada, the World Health Organization, family doctors and so on all doing everything in their power to convince all of us to get our COVID vaccinations. Let's call them the "smart" people. And on the other hand, we see information gleaned from rumours, ill-informed friends and neighbours, dangerous social media platforms and perhaps even cosmic telepathy.

What is one to think? ... for some it is all quite confusing.

Perhaps we have two groups of people; some believe that vaccinations are a good thing and save lives. These same people also believe that smoking is harmful, that the world is round and that Elvis is indeed dead. They wear seat belts in the car, brush their teeth and follow the advice of the "smart" people.

The other group will need some encourage-

ment and I would propose a two-step process to help them along. The first step is for the provincial government to immediately institute a COVID vaccination certificate and, like many other jurisdictions around the world, would be made available to anyone who has obtained the requisite two jabs. This card would accompany all the other documents we all carry with us and use on a regular basis. The second part of the process is where the clout is, as it were. "Inclusion by vaccination". Mandate that any public facility or service may serve only those who have proof of vaccination until such time as it is determined that the pandemic is truly behind us. Grocery stores, theatres, libraries, airlines, accommodation ... you get the picture. It won't take long before the unvaccinated who are a) lazy, b) sceptics, c) conspiracy theorists or d) libertarians decide that the only route to life as they, and the rest of us, knew it, is to help safeguard our collective health and get vaccinated.

Sean Pennylegion
Minden

The ups and downs of planning to say 'I do' during COVID-19

GRACE OBORNE

Staff Reporter

For many couples, their collective dream to say 'I do' has been challenged, postponed and cancelled repeatedly throughout the pandemic.

Luckily, as case counts are decreasing, vaccination rates are increasing and restrictions are lifting, people are starting to feel more comfortable to gather with family and friends for their big day. Though spirits are lifting, this hasn't always been the case.

For the duration of the pandemic, it has been extremely difficult for those involved in planning a wedding to follow through with their jobs. Individuals have mentioned that the pandemic has devastated the wedding industry.

"Honestly, the greatest challenge is losing work, and basically going a whole year with zero income. I'm able to do my job and service my clients, even with a mask on and with social distancing, so it was hard to not work," said local wedding photographer, Eleanor Dobbins.

"It has been devastating. The first year I opened, I had 13 weddings that summer but then COVID hit and I had one wedding, and maybe two in the fall. Then it was next to nothing. It just started back up," said Lorraine Turcotte, of Lorraine's Floral Creations.

Since the pandemic has delayed initial dates for ceremonies and receptions, venues have also lost business. Bonnie View Inn has always been a popular spot in Haliburton for wedding receptions, but, over the past 17 months, has been forced to focus their business elsewhere.

"It hurt us so bad. I took a month off in February, to go to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, because I knew that I had nine weddings in May and June, but then

COVID hit and I lost all those weddings. I'm just focusing differently now, and not on weddings. If they happen to fit in then great, but it is not being made a priority anymore. Years were spent building up the weddings here, to make them my priority, and now it is too unpredictable," said owner, operator, and wedding planner, Andrea Hagarty.

Despite the hardships that most couples went through to get married, others have found that COVID actually helped them to celebrate their big day the way they wanted to. Kristy Barrett and Mitchell Vanoosterhout married on June 12 of this year and say it wasn't always so difficult to plan.

"We didn't want a big wedding to begin with, so COVID actually kind of worked out for us in that sense. It took forever for us to come up with a reason to have a small wedding and then surprisingly, COVID hit," said Barrett.

"We ordered everything through Amazon. Our whole wedding budget, was under \$1,000 by the end of it. We had the smallest wedding we could. I ordered Subway for catering, and it was about \$150 for three platters of subs. My wedding dress wasn't pricey as well, and my husband wore a pair of jeans, a dress shirt, and a tie. We kept it really low-key and we wanted something small, so for us, it was great," added Barrett.

Though the pandemic gave the couple an opportunity to pursue what they really wanted, they still ran into small difficulties.

"We were trying to find a place to get the marriage license. That was the hard part, believe it or not. My husband is from the Netherlands so we've had our challenges with COVID and flying him here. Originally he was supposed to come here in June 2020, but then the pandemic hit," said Barrett.

For wedding and event coordinator, Kait Farrar, the pandemic has increased her workload.

“

The outlook for 2021 would be more weddings... COVID won't be here forever. That will go. It will get better.

— Lorraine Turcotte

"Prior to COVID, I wasn't planning any weddings because I was doing large scale festivals and events. Now, because of COVID, I'm planning at least five weddings this year. I'm already picking up anywhere between 20 to 25 weddings this season because so many people have postponed."

Farrar has also adapted quickly to the lifestyle of working remotely and has been able to keep up with her work.

"Everything that I've been doing has, up until just recently with the availability of vaccines, all been done virtually. I have clients who I actually didn't meet face to face until the end of July. I was doing all of our meetings virtually and all of the work virtually. I use shared platforms such as Google Drive. It was seamless, effective, and efficient for collaborating," said Farrar.

Seeing that 2021 could be a better year, with the effects of the pandemic subsiding, many people are hoping to see more weddings.

"The outlook for 2021 would be more weddings. I think people have learned that backyard weddings, though it's not good for businesses like venues, are maybe the future. COVID won't be here forever. That will go. It will get better," said Turcotte.

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Demand for services at area food banks has declined over the summer

Food banks in the community have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, recently they've been able to come back from their tough times. / GRACE OBORNE Staff



from page 4

Canada, who put together a bunch of emergency hampers. We're well prepared for a large number of people to start coming back early in October," said Barnes.

"Now, our donations have leveled off this time of year because, during the summer, we don't get a lot of donations, but it picks up in the coming months. The Lily Ann Thrift Store is back up and running, so we have donations coming in from there," added MacDuff.

During the pandemic, many volunteers were unable to work or chose to stay home for their health and safety.

"It's roughly 60 volunteers that are helping us. I say that with hesitancy because we had several volunteers that were not physically able to come in to support us during COVID. They were in isolation for various reasons, and so we've also had to scale down. There's programs that we've had to not deliver, because we just could not translate them into something that could be done safely. So those volunteers are kind of on the sidelines waiting for us to be able to return to normalcy," said Jackson.

Now that the pandemic is slowly lifting, more volunteers are being asked to come back and help the food banks as they move into what has typically been the busiest months of the year.

"Before COVID, we usually had between 35 and 40. Now there are only nine of us, and we've carried it the whole time. This past week, we're starting to pick up in numbers, so I said that we have to invite our past volunteers to come back. We're going to need more bodies to help, because I think as the money dries up it's going to become busier and busier. So we're going to need more hands on deck," said Barnes.

She added, "I watch all the information on COVID, and we're just bouncing along. I am sending out an email to all the past volunteers, to ask if they're interested in coming back as a volunteer in the fall, and if they are, they have to be fully vaccinated, or they can't come back."

Jackson is praying that public events will still be allowed come November, as CFN relies on the money raised through its annual silent auction to cover most of its operational expenses over the holidays and into the new year.

"We are comfortable in maintaining where we are at right now. That being said, our largest fundraiser for the food bank typically happens in November, and that really translates to the support for that program for the next 12 months if that makes sense. So we're super hopeful that it is able to continue to be held. Rhubarb Restaurant usually holds that. So that's critical for us, to be able to maintain progress."

CORRECTION

"In last week's edition of the *Echo*, we identified the family in our Pic of the Past as the Brown family. The last name of those pictured is actually Brohm. The *Echo* apologizes for this error."



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First annual Classic Boat Rendezvous in Haliburton

JERELYN CRADEN

Special to the Echo

Five beautifully crafted, refurbished classic wooden boats, circa 1938 to 1961, met at the Head Lake public dock on Saturday, Aug. 14 for the first annual Classic Boat Rendezvous.

The event – the brainchild of Soyers Lake residents, Jeff Papiez and Greg Freeman – was inspired by the boating days of old and shared with the owners of four other classic wooden boats for a day of communal fun on the water.

"There are three of us on Soyers Lake who have classic boats, and friends on Haliburton Lake who have two classic boats," Papiez said. "We thought we'd have a good old fashioned boating day where we'd take our boats out for the day, have a picnic somewhere, go swimming at a beach area where there's a sandbar, perhaps near the Bonnie View Inn ... take in the sights along the shoreline of Grass Lake, Kashagawig-amog, and Canning Lake ... stop for an ice cream at the Ice Cream Hut (adjacent to Kate's Burger Counter) in Ingoldsby, then head back to Soyers Lake for some entertainment, anchored out like in the days of old having a grand time in our classic boats."

Papiez and Freeman were referring to The Chris Collins Trio (from Peterborough), featured at the annual Soyers Lake Ratepayers' Association's, 'Music on the Water.' Filling the air with the rhythmic sounds of rock/blues/reggae and soul, the 75-minute set, performed for the enjoyment of association members, could also be enjoyed by boaters who happened to be on Soyers and could anchor up and listen.

Papiez was weened on boats.

"My grandfather used to tell us that having a fine wooden boat made was not common sense at all. As a matter of fact, it's like taking your finest piece of furniture and throwing it in the lake. It's not smart. However, when you put a wooden boat in the water and you take it for a ride, there's a comfort level and a sound in it that just feels so comfortable and so right and so solid. It's like that old comfortable pair of shoes that you have in the closet ... it just fits so well. And that was it in a nutshell. It truly is that way."

Freeman and Papiez bought their 1961 18-foot Greavette Sheerliner, (manufactured in Gravenhurst) named the 'Humming Bird' in 2008.

"Every one of these boats has been refinished. With proper care they will last another 60-plus years. It doesn't take a lot of annual maintenance once you get them to that stage. If you don't and you're in the perpetual 'catch-up' period of just fixing here and there, then you'll never get over that hump," said Papiez.

Freeman added: "When we add up the ages of the five boats in the rendezvous, there's 372 years of history on the lake."

For Gord and Barb Smith, owners of 'A Little Free Time' - a 1948 22-foot Shepherd, (manufactured in Niagara-on-the-Lake), creating memories with vintage wooden boats is a family affair. Each of their two sons, Matthew and Lloyd, owns and has refurbished a classic boat that will take part in the rendezvous. Owners of 'Gord Smith' in Dundas, Ontario, Gord and Barb specialize in restoring old classic wooden boats.

According to Matthew Smith, who works with his parents in the family marine business -- "My 1948 22-foot Shepherd, (manufactured in Niagara-on-the-Lake) named 'Round One' was ready



George and Krista South, left, pose beside their 1938 'PeeGee' boat during the first annual Classic Boat Rendezvous event in Haliburton on Saturday, Aug. 14. Jeff Papiez and Greg Freeman, right, pictured standing in their 1961 'Humming Bird'. /JERELYN CRADEN Contributor



to go in a fire pit. But, my dad offered it to me, so I took last winter and re-did all of it." In regard to refurbishing costs, Smith said, "It takes what it takes, you just keep going because you know what you want it to be when it's done." The outcome, stunning to the eye, was like that of a finely crafted piece of furniture.

Matthew's brother, Lloyd Smith, purchased 'Rot to Riches,' a 1938 18-foot JH Ross, (manufactured in Port Carling), in 2017.

"I restored it that winter and have owned it ever since. We repowered it with a 4.3 Chev engine and did a hard bottom on it, so I can trailer it around and launch it on a daily basis. We bought it with the intention to deck it over and turn it into a rear cockpit gentleman's racer. But, after looking at the lines on the boat, it was going to be a crime to change anything about it, so we restored it as is. History's hard to come by for that particular model. JH Ross was known for cedar strips and canoes, so I'm thinking this was a custom order with the mahogany decks. It's just a lot of fun," Smith said.

Rounding out the five boats, is 'PeeGee' a 1938 Chris-Craft owned by George and Krista South.

"My father bought it in 1971 for \$400," said George South. "It was sitting on its side, rotting in Wasaga and he couldn't afford to refurbish it then, so he kept it in storage for a number of years. We refurbished it in the early 80s and then again in the late 90s, and then just a year ago."

With its original six-cylinder inboard engine, the couple look forward to giving it to their daughter, Georgia.

Sayers Lake resident, Ted Brandon, brought his beautifully crafted miniature wooden classic to the gathering at the Head Lake public dock that he built 15 years ago.

"It's remote controlled, has an electric motor, so I can run it. I've always dreamt of having a full-size one. Maybe one day," he said.

As for the future of the Classic Boat Rendezvous, Papiez said, "There might be an opportunity to travel and see different lakes next year, maybe in the Haliburton Lake area with the growing number of these boats, and see a different part of the county. It really is a nice rendezvous for vintage boats."

Freeman added: "If anyone has an antique boat or is interested in joining next year's rendezvous, they can contact me or Jeff at: 905-520-2648."

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The Highlands' renowned multi-sport athlete and long-time coach retires in Haliburton

GRACE OBORNE

Staff Reporter

From an early age, multi-sport athlete, Marla MacNaull has always been a dedicated competitor, displaying a strong work ethic that ultimately made her an outstanding athlete.

An athlete that is worthy of joining the first group of Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame inductees such as retired NHL player Ron Stackhouse and Olympian Lesley Tashlin.

When Marla was growing up in Haliburton, there were only boys' hockey teams and very few girls playing hockey at all. She insisted that her parents enroll her in a boys' hockey team. From there, her love for hockey came to life.

"I coached Marla for a couple of years, when she got to be in Peewee and Bantam. At the time, it became a little more difficult for her to be accepted on a boys team. As a girl, playing hockey, it just wasn't the norm. She was shown to the, the broom closet, or the washroom to put on her hockey equipment, and it wasn't that people were mean about it, it's just that that was out of the norm. Girls just didn't play boys' hockey at the time," said MacNaull's father, Bob.

In high school, MacNaull had the opportunity to play competitive sports and manage to play any sport one could think of. She played community hockey, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, fastball, curling, and competed in track.

"In high school, I got involved in many different sports, and then track and field became the big push. I played everything and had the opportunity to play everything. There was never anybody that said I can't play on every team," said Mac-



Since being newly retired, Marla spends a lot of time on Drag Lake in Haliburton. She continues to stay athletic by taking up other activities such as walking her dog and kayaking. /Submitted Photo.

Naull.

MacNaull then attended McMaster University where she played hockey and competed in track and field. She also attended Queens University, where she continued to play hockey, all while maintaining her grades.

"She was just really gifted, and she had good marks as well. So she was focused and determined enough that her schoolwork never suffered," said MacNaull's father.

Throughout her athletic career, MacNaull held over a dozen HHSS track records, was the MVP of several teams in

her high school career, was named MVP on the all boys minor hockey team, and her university teams. MacNaull was a two time HHSS Athlete of the Year, and has also be awarded more than 100 first place awards in 10 different sports.

"I feel pride as a father, for sure, but other things, too. She has accomplished an awful lot. Through her athletics, I think it's made her a better rounded person," said MacNaull's father.

"I met Marla at University, and we've been friends ever since. We played hockey together all through university, and she had a great slapshot and there weren't too many female hockey players at the time who had a great slapshot so that's what stood out to me," said former teammate and long-time friend, Deb Adkins.

"She was a competitor for sure and always gave her all every time she was out on the ice. She was also a fantastic teammate. She always had the team's best interest at hand, and put the team before herself," she added.

"She was tenacious on the ice, she was fearless around the net. It was crazy. She

would cut in front of the sprawled out goalie and sprawled out players and she'd just go flying and still somehow managed to put the puck in the net," added another former teammate and long-time friend, Marian Coveny.

MacNaull felt an urge to project the support she was given onto other children. After her university career, she became an elementary school teacher, and then eventually a high school teacher in Toronto where she taught physical education. She inevitably began coaching teams and individual athletes.

"A lot of motivation to teach and coach came from the teachers that I had here in Haliburton. I really liked them not just as teachers, but as people and as coaches. They really formed who I am and it just seemed natural to take that route. I modelled myself after them," said MacNaull.

While teaching, Marla joined the well-known Toronto Aeros hockey team that won the Ontario Senior Women's Provincial Championships in 1990 while winning the bronze at the Nationals.

Eventually, MacNaull withdrew from competitive sports but continued to play recreationally.

"There are shinny leagues and I often go play with friends and we still make a rink on the lake in the winter time. This past year with COVID, I sadly haven't had the chance to play much since a lot has been closed," said MacNaull.

MacNaull has recently retired from teaching and has moved back to Haliburton permanently.

"Since retiring, I decided that because I'm on my own, I wanted to be with my mom and dad through the pandemic. I have a place beside my mom and dad, and spend most of my days walking my dog, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and boarding and kayaking," said MacNaull.

Though she has retired, the Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame has continued to recognize MacNaull's accomplishments in her own athletics as well as her successes as a long-time coach.

"It's extremely humbling. I've got a lot of recognition because I grew up here and I know a lot of people in the area. It's a wonderful feeling to be recognized. The committee's done a great job, and the Hall of Fame is just great for the community," concluded MacNaull.



Ron Reid H.A.V.E. Charity Golf Tournament

~ Friday, August 27 ~



Remembering H.A.V.E. chairman and beloved Highlands resident Ron Reid, Help A Village Effort is hosting a charity golf tournament in his honour, raising money to provide safe drinking water to people in rural India. Although this year's event is sold out, those wishing to donate to H.A.V.E.'s work can do so online at helpavillageeffort.org, by emailing HAVE@helpavillageeffort.org, or mailing a cheque to P.O. Box 553, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0.

Help A Village Effort's mission is to provide better living conditions for people around the world through the provision of some of life's essentials: safe drinking water, sanitation and good hygiene education.

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What the heck is the littoral zone?

That shallow area in the water along your shoreline has a name. It's called the "littoral zone". And much of the biological activity of the lake happens in that zone.

That littoral zone is the point at which runoff from rain hits the lake. That rain water, especially if the rain falls heavily, will carry with it phosphorus, nitrogen, road salt and other chemicals harmful to the lake. Did you know that road salt is harmful to aquatic life such as the microscopic organisms called Daphnia, (the water fleas that filter the water in our lakes)? There is more biodiversity in this part of the lake than in any other. Fish spawn in the littoral zone. Also, there is lots of interaction between small fish and larger predator fish here. If the predator fish, which are higher up on the food chain, are adversely affected this can harm the whole lake ecosystem.

The littoral zone also bears the brunt of the wakes from the many power boats that ply our lakes. This zone functions as an interface between aquatic and terrestrial systems or, where the lake meets land. Boat wakes can stir up the sediment

along the shore increasing the turbidity of the water, which has a negative effect on the aquatic life there.

So, how can we protect our littoral zones? Dense, sufficiently wide buffers of native shoreline vegetation protect shorelines from erosion, the water from pollution and provide habitat for the wildlife. Taller vegetation also helps cool the nearshore water which is warming due to climate change. Cooler water contains more oxygen and supports fish and other aquatic life. Another way to protect this important zone is to keep boat wakes to a minimum. This will avoid stirring up the sediment in the water along the shore and disturbing spawning beds. Although there are signs at every boat launch, they're often ignored. The signs say 10 kph limit within 30 m (100 ft) from shore. Those laws are there not only to protect people and property but also the whole lake ecosystem.

Protect your littoral zone and protect your lake and the life in it.

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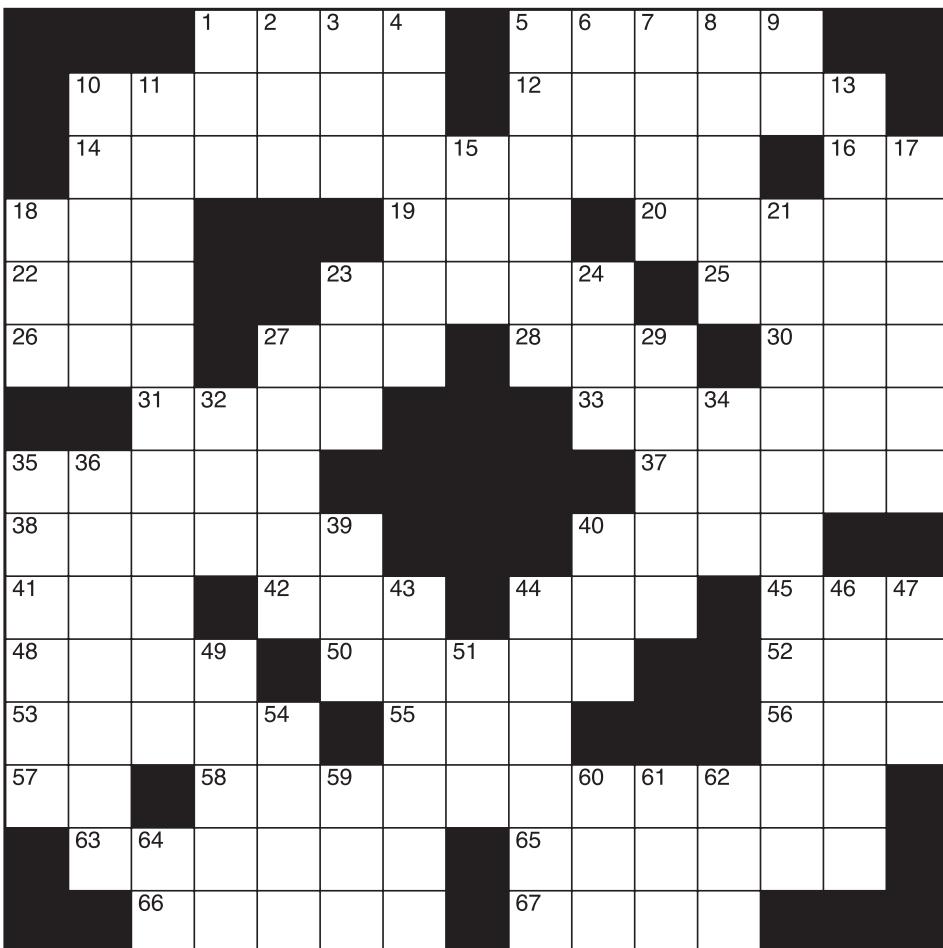
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Religion native to some in China
3. Ask humbly
5. Nursemaids
10. Coats a porous surface
12. Garment of long cloth
14. Containing a broader message
16. University of Dayton
18. Patti Hearst's captors
19. Insane
20. Bristlelike structures in invertebrates
22. Taxi
23. Trainee
25. Comedian Carvey
26. Some couples say it
27. Belong to he
28. High schoolers' test
30. Young goat
31. You drive on one
33. Denotes a time long ago
35. Space between two surfaces
37. By and by
38. A way to sell
40. A line left by the passage of something
41. Indicates near
42. Where wrestlers compete
44. Prosecutors
45. Body part
48. Soluble ribonucleic acid
50. Indicates silence
52. NFL's Newton
53. Ancient Roman garments
55. Drunkard
56. Expression of satisfaction
57. Thus
58. Noisy viper
63. Plants of a particular region
65. Communicated with
66. Latches a window
67. Swarm with

4. Distinctive smells
5. Digressions
6. Partner to cheese
7. Father of Araethyrea
8. Made a cavity
9. Tin
10. Appetizer
11. Presenting in detail
13. Compound in guano and fish scales
15. Cool!
17. '— than a doornail'
18. Popular literary form — fi
21. Be the most remarkable
23. 'Final Fantasy' universe character
24. Buffer solution
27. Muslim physician using traditional remedies
29. Fantastical planet
32. S. American plant
34. Domesticated animal
35. The tops of mountains
36. Expression of disapproval
39. Skeletal muscle
40. Game show host Sajak
43. One's interests
44. Identify the existence of
46. Partner to 'ooched'
47. Does not accept medical help (abbr.)
49. Hammerin' Hank
51. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
54. Elaborately draped garment
59. Check
60. Car mechanics group
61. One point east (clockwise) of due north
62. Austrian river
64. A command to list files

CLUES DOWN

1. Split pulses
2. Brew

Answers on page 17

Catching up in West Guilford

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Home again, after 13 days at a sister's cottage in Latchford, which boasts, among other things, the "shortest covered bridge" in the world. Another sister and I had walks under said cover and several around that cove off the Montreal River. The holiday included a couple of birthday dinners for me with other family members and the delight of the sight of the full moon rising over the birch trees and the river.

While there, a notice appeared in the newspaper with the sad news of the pass-

ing of Ruth Still, long-time resident of Eagle Lake who had also made her home in various southern Ontario communities.

Congratulations to Rob and Anna Lowes on the birth of their daughter, Moira, on Aug. 10, in Peterborough hospital with a healthy start of six lbs.

On Aug. 12, a crowd of approximately 80 gathered at Abbey Gardens to hear the Highlands Opera Studio singers sing their hearts out for us in operatic and modern musical selections under the big tent on a perfect summer night. Melissa Stephens was most heartily welcomed as the accompanist for the second half of the programme. It was good to see and hear her again after a long absence from theatre and church engagements.

Our sympathy to the relatives and friends of Roean Barnhart, who passed away recently at the Haliburton Hospital after several months as resident in Highland Wood.



First big winner

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation announced back on July 30 that Brian Daoust was the grand prize winner of the organization's new monthly 50/50 draw. Daoust walked away with \$4,248. Tickets will be available for the August draw until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 30, and can be purchased at www.hhsf5050.ca. /Submitted photo

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Highlands Opera Studio participant Tamar Simon, as Donna Elvira sings during the first rehearsal



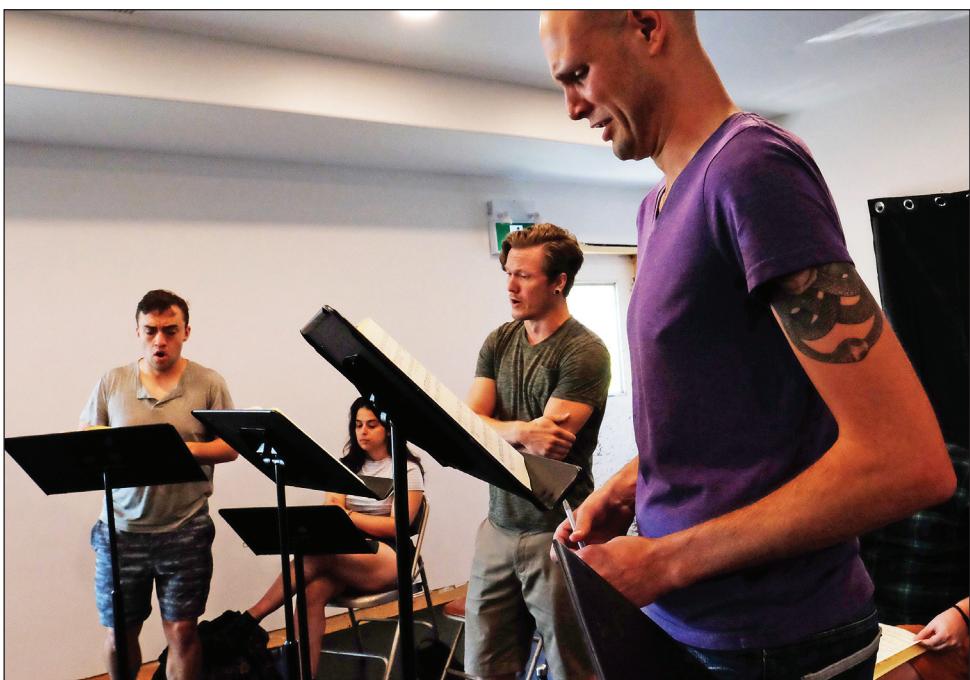
Highlands Opera Studio participant Geoffrey Schellenberg, who will perform as Don Giovanni, second from left, discusses background details for his character.

Operatic overtures for the Abbey

Highlands Opera Studio participants River Guard, as Don Ottavio, and Lauren Margison, as Donna Anna, share a scene during the first rehearsal for 'The Leporello Diaries: an Unsolved Mystery'. The studio had 18 singers from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico involved in a four-week online professional program, which finished on July 30. The in-person session includes instructors and participants, who have been double-vaccinated and tested, creating a bubble group. For more information about the upcoming performances on Aug. 19 and 20 at Abbey Gardens and to purchase tickets see www.hIGHLANDOPERAUDIO.COM. /DARREN LUM Staff



Highlands Opera Studio consultant Valerie Kuinka leads a discussion.



Highlands Opera Studio participants Geoffrey Schellenberg, as Don Giovanni, from left, Brenden Friesen, as Il Commendatore, and Dylan Wright, as Leporello share a scene during the first rehearsal

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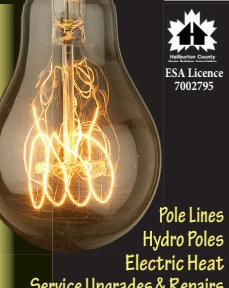

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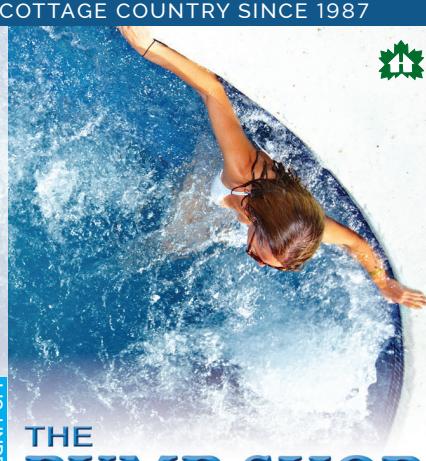

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LIC. UNDER MOE

Pro bodybuilder remembers his roots growing up in Minden

MIKE BAKER

Editor

Ryan White is having the time of his life chasing, and achieving, his dreams.

Growing up in Haliburton County, with his family home in Lochlin, White was always an outgoing kid with a keen interest in sports. He remembers, during his time at Archie Stouffer Elementary School and, later, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, being a part of hockey, basketball and football teams. In fact, during his senior year of high school, back in 2001, White was the captain of the Red Hawks football team.

By that point, as a blooming teenager, White was four years deep into his biggest and greatest passion – bodybuilding.

"I was probably 12 years old when I got my start – my mom knew the owner of the health food store in Minden. It was really the only place to get any kind of workout supplements... The owner of the store had a friend that was a personal trainer, who would come in like twice a month. And so she started setting up these appointments for me," White said. "This trainer was the guy who kind of got me onto my first plans, first proteins and multivitamins and started teaching me about supplements and diet."

Today, at 38 years of age, White is one of the biggest names in natural bodybuilding. In June, he secured his first world championship, placing first overall in the Musclemania Universe sports model competition.

And now, having arguably reached the peak of his profession, White spent a little time recently reflecting on the path that got him to where he is today. Speaking to the *Echo*, White, who now lives just outside of Denver, Colorado, said he has an awful lot to be thankful for.

He remembers, vividly, his days as a high schooler in Haliburton. A far cry from your typical teenager, White always had a rough idea in his mind of what his future would be, and what it would involve. He spent the best part of two years waking up at 6 a.m. so that he could make his way to the then recently redeveloped gym at HHSS, where he would train for a couple of hours before starting class.

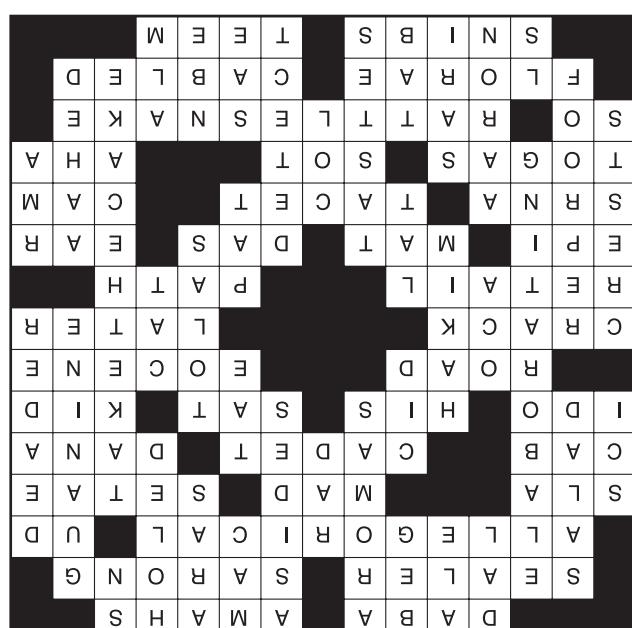
"I was always reading these *Muscle and Fitness* magazines (more on this later) and pulling different articles out... Mr. Davies, the football coach, and Mr. Little would always open the gym up for me and a couple of my friends, and we would go in and train every single morning," White recalls.

Upon graduation from HHSS, White moved down to Toronto, where he studied Kinesiology and Health Science at York University. It was here that he generated a passion for mixed martial arts.

During his time as a student, he studied disciplines such as Shaolin kung fu, Muay Thai kickboxing, and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He also dabbled in freestyle wrestling and boxing. He decided to pursue competitive MMA post-graduation.

Now, rather than focusing on something like the Ultimate Fighting Championship, or other cage fighting promotions, White looked into specialized competitions within his fields of study. He entered several Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournaments, and found he was getting better before disaster, at least from an athlete's perspective, struck.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Construction to begin at Drag Lake Dam South later this month



The Drag Lake Dam South site will soon be redeveloped. The project is expected to take approximately one year to complete. /Submitted photo

MIKE BAKER

Editor

Construction work will soon begin at Drag Lake Dam South, with Parks Canada moving ahead with a full replacement of the site.

In a media release issued on Aug. 11, Parks Canada noted the project is part of a "historic program of investment" into the infrastructure supporting the Trent-Severn Waterway. The Drag Lake Dam site includes two concrete dams – north and south – on each side of a small island, both with extended concrete wing walls branching off the sides of operable sluices.

Drag Lake Dam North was rehabilitated in 2017 as part of the Federal Infrastructure Investment program.

Work on Drag Lake Dam South will commence this month. The release notes that workers will be onsite Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays as necessary. Construction noise and increased traffic around area roads should

be expected throughout the duration of the development.

The project is expected to take approximately one year to complete, and will include the construction of two new sluices, hydro intake and abutment walls, the installation of new mechanical equipment, as well as various public safety improvements.

"Parks Canada is leading important infrastructure work to ensure safe, high-quality experiences for visitors by improving heritage, visitor, waterway, and highway assets located within national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas, including along the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site," the release states.

Any questions over the proposed development should be directed to pc.trentsevern.pc@canada.ca, and include 'Drag Lake Dams' in the subject heading. For more updated information on this project, or other infrastructure projects within the area, visit www.pc.gc.ca/tswHaliburton.

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MONDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 23-27 NEW ALL WEEKLONG EVENT! The Rainbow Scavenger Hunt Check out www.mindenpride.ca for detailed instructions.	FRIDAY, AUGUST 27 Pride Bench Dedication Time: 12:00pm Location: Minden River Walk. Check out our video tribute to Sinclair Russell at www.mindenpride.ca
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 Movie Night featuring Papi Chulo Time: 8:00pm (gates open at 7:00) Location: Abbey Gardens Little Pit Drive In. Please register at www.abbeygardens.ca/littlepitdrivein	SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 Parade Your PRIDE Colours (Rain date: Aug 29th). Time: 12:00 – 6:00pm and Float Down the Gull with PRIDE! Time: 1:00- 3:00pm Visit www.mindenpride.ca for more information about these events!
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 Drag Storytime Time: 10:00am Location: Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Details at www.eventbrite.ca/e/storytime-with-drag-queen-aunty-plum-tickets-164339388535	SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 Multi-Faith Service Time: 1:00pm Location: this is an online event. Register at multifaith@mindenpride.ca for this online event

Minden Pride is generously supported by: #MYHaliburton HIGHLANDS

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Coaching has become a true 'love and passion' for Ryan White

from page 17

"I've trained the 2018 Musclemania Bikini world champion, her name is Nicole Ortolani. I've trained pro boxers like Ricky Lopez and Mike Alvarado. Mike Alvarado was actually slated to fight Manny Pacquiao at one time, although the fight didn't go ahead," White said. "Coaching at the gym has certainly become my passion."

Ryan's story is an inspiring one – a small-town boy making it big. When asked what advice he could pass down to the next generation, White said, as much as it might be a cliché, to never give up on your dreams, regardless of what they may be.

"Focus on what you love and what you're super passionate about. Back when I was growing up, there wasn't anybody in town that even knew it was possible to make a living with fitness. It was just something that I loved so much, and I was so passionate about," White said. "I think if you follow your heart, follow your dreams, the money and the opportunities and all of those other things will come."

"It doesn't matter if your thing is that you're great at building model airplanes, or something like that. It might be totally

off the wall, like bodybuilding was for me, but if that's where your passion is, and you're living it every day, you will find a way to make it work, and success will come," White concluded.

Through it all, Ryan said he has had many people there as a "important" support system to help him through the good times and the bad.

"I would like to say and point out that I have had a lot of help, and a lot of support on my journey. From great coaches, like I had in high school that would open up the gym for me even though they probably shouldn't have, to my mom going out and finding me a trainer, and just understanding this was something I was passionate about, even from a young age. Then my family now - my fiancé, my kids, and just a wonderful community I have around me. I just want to say thank you and show my gratitude to them, I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Krown Rust Control / Action Car and Truck Accessories in Haliburton and Lindsay are actively recruiting automotive technicians.

This position will involve applying Krown rustprotection material and installing car and truck accessories.

These are full time, year round positions offering competitive wages and benefit programs.

Successful candidates will have a strong work ethic, the ability and desire to learn new skills and a valid drivers licence. Training will be provided.

Please email resumes to :
actionhaliburton@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

The Haliburton County Huskies are looking to fill the following Game Day postions for all of our 2021/22 home dates at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden:

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Employment Opportunity Municipality of Dysart et al

Administrative Assistant (Public Works)

Reporting to the Director of Public Works, the successful applicant will perform a variety of multifaceted and confidential administrative duties for the Public Works Department. Duties include but are not limited to responding to public enquiries, general clerical duties and involvement in health & safety and training policy rollouts.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work independently and with minimal supervision in an office environment.

To review the detailed job description, please visit:

<https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx>
 Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Laura Casey, Manager of Payroll and Human Resources
 hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 3:00 pm Tuesday, August 31st, 2021

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.



Help Wanted

Children's Programmer- 6 month PT contract

Experience with infants and toddlers required. Must be able to assist in developing and running activities for children, be sensitive to issues affecting families and have a good understanding of the demands of motherhood. You will work as part of a team for 2 half-days per week plus planning time.

Community Outreach Assistant- 6 month PT contract

Bring resources to smaller communities in a grass-roots manner. The successful candidate will be comfortable talking to people, have a positive outlook and be able to work as part of a team. You already have a good understanding, or direct experience, of parenting on a low-income, as well as other challenges such as single parenting, social isolation, etc.

This position is 2-3 days per week and may need some flexibility in days and times. Reliable transportation is required.

For more information call 705-457-1742 and ask for the CAPC/CPNP Coordinator.



The Pump Shop has been servicing water systems in Haliburton and surrounding areas for over 30 years and we are looking for a Water System Service Technician Assistant to join our growing team!

A full time year round position with benefits is available for the right individual. Starting wage is \$45,000 per year based on knowledge and experience. The applicant must be motivated, organized and willing to learn. Experience is an asset but not necessary as on the job training will be provided.

Duties include assisting Senior Service Technicians in installing a variety of water treatment systems, diagnosing, and troubleshooting water systems issues and repairing the issue.

Valid G driver's license with a clean driver abstract is mandatory.

Please forward your resume and cover letter to
 jesse@thepumpshop.ca



An unwavering belief in people and possibilities

Are you a Chef? Are you tired of cooking the same things all the time? Do you like to experiment? To think outside the box? Would you like to join a passionate team dedicated to learning and growing? Would you like to have weekends off?

SIRCH Community Services is a highly regarded Ontario non profit organization whose mandate is to level the playing field, reduce poverty, foster connection and build skills. In 2020 we opened a bistro, and marketplace. In 2021 we added a bakery and patio. Located in the village, it is a place where everyone can feel welcomed, connected and safe. We teach basic food, hospitality and retail skills year-round, and students practice their skills in the bistro and marketplace. The Marketplace sells local food items and features the work of dozens of local artists and entrepreneurs. We partner with businesses and connect students with job opportunities and resources.

We are looking for a Chef to join our Haliburton team. If you are someone who...

- Loves the notion of joining a growing social enterprise and helping the community thrive.
- Is proficient in English, both written and verbal.
- Has an undergraduate degree or Diploma in a relevant discipline
- Has 3-5 years of progressive culinary experience, and sound theoretical knowledge of culinary techniques
- Is professional, ethical and reliable
- Is acutely aware of health and safety
- Red Seal Certification is significantly advantageous

For a full job description, email info@sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742.

Come Join Our Team

Wind in the Willows is expanding our team of professionals.

If you are looking for a diverse and rewarding career in a relaxed, friendly environment look no further.

Experience as an esthetician an asset, however training will be provided to the right candidate.

Forward resume to :
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 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
 Deadline Friday at 4 pm

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a skilled reporter to join an award-winning team of journalists in the heart of Ontario's cottage country. The preferred candidate will possess the following:

- A diploma or degree in journalism
- Knowledge of or interest in municipal government, as, in addition to general news, the position will entail reporting on the activities of a number of local municipal councils
- Firm command of spelling, grammar and Canadian Press style
- Demonstrated photography and photo editing skills
- Ability to juggle numerous assignments while meeting multiple deadlines
- Willingness to live in Haliburton County
- Must have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence

Interested candidates should forward their resume and writing samples to Publisher, David Zilstra by Tuesday, August 20th.

david.zilstra@haliburtonpress.com.



The Haliburton County Echo is seeking a talented editor to join an award-winning team in the heart of Ontario's cottage country. The incumbent will be responsible for overseeing the production of the Echo, weekly publication County Life, and a variety of seasonal magazines. The position includes liaising with the advertising and production departments, as well as general reporting and writing, and writing a weekly opinion piece.

The preferred candidate will possess the following:

- A diploma or degree in journalism
- Outstanding copy editing skills
- Experience in/understanding of community newspapers
- The ability to juggle numerous responsibilities while meeting multiple deadlines
- Excellent time management
- Demonstrated photography and photo editing skills
- Firm command of spelling, grammar and Canadian Press style
- Working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign software
- Willingness to live in Haliburton County
- Access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence

Interested candidates should forward resumes and writing samples to general manager David Zilstra at david.zilstra@haliburtonpress.com no later than August 20th.



Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Permanent Full-Time and Part-Time Registered Nurses as described below.

Minden and Haliburton hospital sites are part of HHHS. Each site operates an emergency department with over 35,000 combined visits per year. The Haliburton site also has a 14-bed in patient unit which houses a diverse and variable patient population. Nursing staff have the opportunity to work at both locations in each department. Rural nursing at these locations offers professionals the opportunity to use a wide variety of skills within an exciting and fluctuating environment. As a member of the health care team, the RN has a unique role in promoting health, in preventing illness, and in helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible. The RN is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable.

QUALIFICATIONS: The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. A Certificate in Emergency Nursing, PALS, ACLS, TNCC, ENPC and added nursing skills pertinent to Emergency nursing are preferred. An ability to function independently and exercise good judgment, in addition to working well as a member of an interdisciplinary team is required. Demonstrated assessment skills and an ability to work in a high stress environment are essential for this position. To be successful, this role requires good interpersonal and communication skills, along with basic computer skills. In addition, the successful candidate must be available to work day, evening and night shifts, along with weekends and statutory holidays. An ability to attend work on a consistent basis is also a requirement.

Job Types: Full-time, Part-time, Permanent

Salary: \$34.06-\$48.53 per hour

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
 Haliburton Highlands Health Services
 Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
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**Community
FUNERAL HOME**

Sarah "Sadie" Stevenson Lavender (nee Callison)

Sadie passed peacefully after a brief illness at Kingston Health Sciences Centre, on December 26, 2020, in her 81st year. Resident of Kingston, Ontario – formerly of Haliburton and Oshawa. Sadie is predeceased by her husband Douglas Lavender and lovingly remembered by her son Brian and his wife LeeAnne, currently of Trenton, and by her daughter Brenda and her wife Serena, of Kingston, Ontario. She is held dear by her grandchildren Taylor, Cora, Hannah and Rebecca and by her great granddaughter, Eden. Sadie is predeceased by her sister May and is lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews.

Visitation & Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life for Sadie will take place at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209. Saturday August 21, 2021 at 11 a.m. (visitation 1 hour prior). Interment, Evergreen Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (<https://hhhs.ca/foundation>) would be appreciated by the family.

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Dusk dances

Public performance returns to Head Lake Park

4



Midnight

Annual street festival and bargain-fest another hit

14



More than horseshoes

Gooderham presents Horseshoe Days with a twist

20

The Haliburton County

ECHO



Murderously funny

Monday evening the Highlands Summer Festival debuted its dark comedy, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, a who-done-it with bite. Above, Ryan Brown and Brittany Robinson play Eddie McCuen and Nikki Crandall. See more photos on page 26.

Jenn Watt Echo staff

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www.haliburtonecho.ca

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Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Iconic comedian performs in Haliburton

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

Don Harron has been a Canadian entertainer for what may seem like a lifetime - for some it has been exactly that.

Now entering his 75th year as a professional comedian, performer, actor and writer, the Renaissance man is showing no signs of slowing down.

Harron recently paid Haliburton a visit to perform his sold out show Charlie Farquharson and Dem Udders at the Northern Lights Pavilion on July 26 and 27 as part of the Highlands Summer Festival.

Set around the character of Charlie, whom Harron created himself, the show's premise revolves around everything from the top news headlines of the day to classic Canadian humour.

Entertaining since the early 1950s, Charlie has been making audiences laugh with his outspokenness, political incorrectness and blunt personality.

"The show is a revue that features a variety of parodies," says Harron. "The material changes week to week, depending on what's in the headlines."

"Charlie is always up to date," says Claudette, Harron's wife and stage partner who has been performing under a one-name moniker as a singer for a number of decades.

"In this show, Charlie's talking about how see DON page 10

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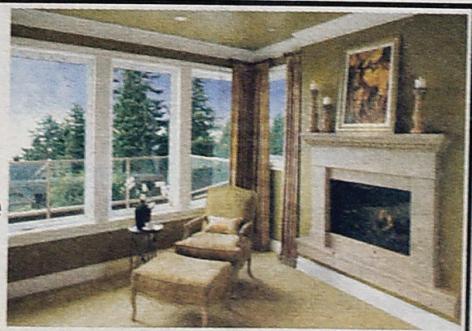
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KUSHOG LAKE
\$1,300,000



A Southwest facing point of land, on Kushog Lake – with 275 feet of shoreline. Experience beautiful sunsets. This 2,300 sq ft Classic cottage is situated on 1 acre. Level lot and includes a hill at the rear rising over 100 ft where you will find a Gazebo with a 3-mile view of the lake. The hill property goes back over 400 feet to Crown Land.

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$789,000



Fantastic opportunity! Solid quality construction. Exceptional view of the lake from most rooms, the screened-in porch, and the full-length deck which spans across the front of the cottage. Large open concept kitchen, living room and dining room. 2 spacious bdrms and 2 baths, and 9ft ceilings throughout. 118.31 feet of clean rock and sand shoreline, large dock, sitting area on shore and big lake views!

IRONDALE RIVER
\$759,000



This beautiful 3-bdrm 1 bath year-round home or cottage. With over 200 feet of frontage and 3.24 acres, this level property provides ample privacy. Sand riverfront shoreline is perfect for swimming. Built in 2015 and offers a spacious kitchen finished with wood cabinetry, ceramic flooring, and a large island. The dining room is the perfect size for your family's harvest table. Sunken living room with walkout to the large front deck.

HIGHWAY 118
\$575,000



Private year-round home situated on 10 acres. Located 15 minutes to the towns of Minden and Haliburton. This is a great home for a large family. 4 bdrms, 3 baths, and large rec room. Hardwood and laminate flooring and custom kitchen. Open concept living room and dining room with walkout to the large deck. Large 2 storey shed is ideal for the handyman, artist or just storage.

COPE LAKE ROAD
\$575,000



Looking for privacy? Then this 2+1 bdrm, 2 bath home or home away from home is for you! Nestled amongst 7.85 acres of nicely treed property with a small stream and crown land across the road. Municipal access to pretty Cope Lake just down the road. Warm and cozy main living area with walkout to the deck. Open concept kitchen and dining area with ample natural lighting. Very well constructed and efficient home with many recent upgrades.

CONTAU LAKE
\$535,000



This stunning 8.38ac parcel of land features 864 ft of frontage and Southeastern exposure. Surrounded by mature trees with plenty of cleared land for privacy and quiet living. Perfectly nestled amongst the trees is a 3 bdrm traditional log cottage. This three-season cottage has a dug well (not currently operational) and cistern, a small single detached garage/ workshop, woodshed, and ample storage space in shed.

MAIN STREET REZ
\$529,000



A one-of-a-kind unique investment opportunity currently filling a great need for affordable housing in the community. "Main Street Rez" offers two residential condo units and comes fully rented and provides a substantial income per month for the owner. The 24-hour inhouse maintenance is a bonus, this will keep you stress free from the daily coordination and maintenance of condo ownership.

GELENT ROAD
\$499,000



Fantastic 3 bdrm, 2 bath family home. Perfect for the outdoor enthusiast. Tranquil wooded backyard backs onto the Haliburton Rail Trail. Enjoy walking, four-wheeling, and snowmobiling for year-round enjoyment. Kitchen features a generous sized island, inside entry to the attached garage, and a walkout to the back deck. Walking distance to schools, shopping, hospital, recreation and Head Lake Park. This lovely family home is waiting for you.

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